

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-35 are pending in the application. Claims 3-7, 10, 12, 22, 24, and 27-35 are withdrawn. Claim 16 is cancelled herein.

Date of the Previous Office Action and Petition for Extension of Time

The cover page of the last Office Action incorrectly gives the "Date Mailed" as 01/25/2006. That date is clearly wrong. The Examiner's signature on Page 8 is dated April 3, 2006 and the Action is "[r]esponsive to communication(s) filed 17 February 2006." Therefore, in calculating the Petition for Extension of Time and associated Fee, the undersigned has used 04/03/2006 as the date from which the period for reply started to run. Thus, the 3 month shortened statutory response period should have expired on 07/03/2005, and the present reply should require only a one month extension of time and associated fee. Please correct the official record.

In the Drawings:

The Drawings and Specification stand objected to because they do not show limitations claimed in Claim 16. Claim 16 is cancelled herein.

In the Claims:

Claims 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claim 16 is cancelled herein.

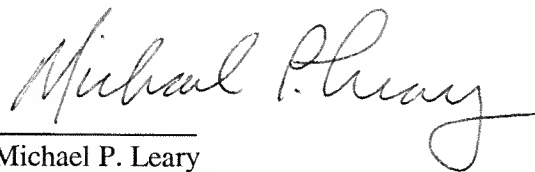
Independent claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by either US 5,300,178 to Nelson et al or US 5,328,096 to Stenge et al. Independent claim 13 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over a combination of US 6,094,773 to Krentz in view of US 4,712,983 to Moynihan. The Examiner has noted that independent claims 1 and 13 contained the limitation that "the air tank having . . . an unpainted outer surface during a manufacturing process" and argues that this limitation to a "past condition of a structural element does not limit the

finally claimed structure” and therefore he reasons that any painted tank would satisfy the limitation.

Independent claims 1 and 13 are amended herein to delete the limitation to “during a manufacturing process.” The amended independent claims 1 and 13 now require an “air tank having an unpainted outer surface.” Since none of the cited references disclose an enclosed and unpainted compressed air tank in the final assembled condition of the air compressor assembly or suggest that arrangement or the advantages thereof, the Applicants believe that the amended independent claims are allowable over those references.

Since the Applicants believe that amended independent claims 1 and 13 are allowable over the cited references, they therefore also believe that the dependent claims are also allowable and that the Office Action’s reasons for rejection of those independent claims are now moot and need not be separately addressed herein.

Respectfully submitted



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